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In this issue :

PLAF STRENGTH

by Mme NGUYEN THI DINH, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the South Viet Nam PLAF

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MARCH 19 ANNIVERSARY OBSERVED IN HANOI

A grand rally was held under the auspices of the Central Committee and the Hanoi Committee of the Fatherland Front and the Special Representation of the RSVN, on the evening of March 17 in Hanoi to mark the 20th anniversary of the Day of National Resistance Against US Imperialists (March 19).

Taking the floor at the meeting, Nguyen Van Huong, Presidium member of the Fatherland Front CC, outlined the history of March 19 (see our last issue) and praised the tradition of undaunted struggle of the Vietnamese people against US aggression. *"It is clear,"* he said,

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PLAF men ready to blow up an enemy position

SURVEY OF U.S. NEO-COLONIALISM

AMERICAN policy in Viet Nam, and in particular the "Vietnamization" of the war is part and parcel of the US overall policy regarding the national liberation movements in the countries of the Third World. A general survey of this policy is certainly helpful for the understanding of the Vietnamese problem. We shall publish a series of short studies on the various aspects of US neo-colonialism as Washington applies it throughout the world and in Viet Nam.

I — NEO-COLONIALISM AND WORLD STRATEGY

IN the nineteenth century, it only took a gun-boat to impose the exposure of a country to the influence of a Western power, a few thousand soldiers to conquer vast territories in Asia or Africa. The Bible in one hand and the rifle in the other, the Western colonist subjugated whole populations. It was the heyday of colonialism which could then establish itself without any disguise : the Western governor ruled with the help of a native subaltern personnel and at most a few mandarins or cadis just for show. Imperialism then lorded it over the world and it seemed the colonial regime had come to stay for ever.

After the Second World War the world situation completely changed. Imperialism was no more the dominant force in the world. Together with the Soviet Union which had asserted its vitality by defeating Hitlerite fascism, new socialist countries came into being, forming a world socialist system, while colonized peoples rose up one after the other in an irresistible upsurge. In the big capitalist countries the worker and popular movement for better living conditions, for the defence of democratic freedoms and peace influenced broad segments of the population roused against monopolist capital.

These three great currents—socialist revolution, national liberation movement, worker movement and struggle for peace — converged to give the world revolution an offensive posture which created most favourable conditions to attack imperialism everywhere in the world.

On the capitalist side, the fascist powers, the colonial powers like Britain, France, the Netherlands were particularly weakened, while with its resources untouched by the hostilities, its economic power stimulated by the war and its monopoly of the atomic weapon, the United States has become indisputably the ringleader of the capitalist world. In 1945, US troops occupied Japan, South Korea, camped in Europe as far as Berlin. Scores of countries were bound to America by loans, handouts, subsidies in food, weapons, not to mention Latin America, for long the US "back-yard."

The United States was also in the van of the new industrial revolution which gave a new impulse to her economy. It has been draining raw materials from the five continents, exporting her goods, food and technique all over the world. The dollar has become the leading currency.

To assume the leadership of the capitalist world, the United States has at its disposal an industrial, agricultural and financial power which far outwits that of any other imperialism. This huge economic potential in the hands of the big monopolies entails a double consequence :

— It exacerbates to the utmost the needs in raw materials and markets, and encourages maximum concentration and export of capital. Neither the abundance of raw materials in the United States nor the size of the internal market can quench this intolerable thirst. Formerly, when the internal resources were far from being entirely exploited, US capitalism had since the mid-nineties already stretched its tentacles over a great part of Latin America. Now colonial expansion becomes an imperative economic necessity.

— It gives US colonialism considerable and various means of action and domination, incomparably superior to those of European powers. Economic expropriation, corruption, espionage, armed actions belong to the arsenal of this technical and material power.

Another necessity, not less imperative, an extra-economic factor, greatly influences Washington policy regarding the Third World. Ringleader of the capitalist world, the United States must assume colonial responsibilities in a world where revolution has scored decisive gains. We live in an era in which the survival of the capitalist world itself is at stake. The crucial problem for Washington will then be : how to liquidate this world revolution, how to face this tidal wave, how to fight it back, to contain it, to destroy its main bastions, nip in the bud the new-born movements, drain the abscesses already formed ?

(*Continued page 2*)

March 17, 1970

An unmanned US scouting plane downed in Nghe An, the 3,335th US aircraft grounded in North Viet Nam to date.

59th Plenary Session of Paris Conference on Viet Nam (March 19, 1970)

Mr Nguyen Minh Vy Exposes US Moves To Escalade the War to all Indochina

AT the 59th session of the Paris conference, Mr. Nguyen Minh Vy, on behalf of the delegation of the DRVN Government, denounced the Nixon administration's pursuit of the unchanged ambitions and objectives of its global strategy, acting as an international gendarme and implementing neo-colonialism which the US imperialists have been trying to impose on South Viet Nam over the past twenty years.

Mr Nguyen Minh Vy said: "The Nixon administration not only refuses to end the war in Viet Nam, but it has been escalating instead the war in Laos in an attempt to make good its setbacks and gain a 'position of strength' in the Viet Nam problem. President Nixon himself officially admitted on March 6, 1970 that the US had long been involved in the war in Laos. On March 17, 1970 Secretary of State William Rogers himself bluntly said that he would not exclude the possibility of using US ground forces in Laos."

On the Cambodian problem, the DRVN Delegation spokesman denounced the US imperialists encroaching upon the sovereignty and territory and undermining the independence, and neutrality of the Kingdom of Cambodia. He reaffirmed the unswerving resolve of the DRVN Government to abide by the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Indochina, always to respect the independence, neutrality and territorial integrity of the Kingdom of Cambodia within the present borders, and to unite with the Cambodian people so as to fight against the common enemy, the US imperialist aggressors.

Thus, Mr Nguyen Minh Vy stressed, it is clear that the Nixon administration also schemed to expand the war to the Indochinese peninsula, thereby seriously jeopardizing peace in South-East Asia.

He also denounced US manoeuvres to downgrade the importance of the Paris Conference on Viet Nam, with a view to eventually scuttling this Conference. He concluded that the Nixon administration hoped to deceive the American people. But more and more clearly the American people see through the Nixon administration's double-faced policy in the Viet Nam, Lao and Cambodian problems and in others too.

MARCH 19 ANNIVERSARY...

(Continued from page 1)

"that in both zones of Viet Nam, a fact has become apparent which surpassed the imagination of the US imperialists. This fact is the following: in spite of the use by the US of ultramodern weapons considered by it as the most efficient ones, in spite of the military and economic means it has been pouring into this limited war of aggression — the biggest and most atrocious of this century — the US is unable to subdue the heroic people of Viet Nam."

Nguyen Van Huong expressed on this occasion the gratitude felt by the Vietnamese people towards the peoples throughout the world who have been warmly supporting the effort of Viet Nam to safeguard her independence and freedom. He also reaffirmed the unshakable resolve of the 31 million Vietnamese to fully execute President Ho Chi Minh's testament and take the resistance to US imperialism to final victory.

Kim Kin Hien, head of the Delegation of the Tricontinental Organization Permanent Secretariat now visiting North Viet Nam, also addressed the gathering. He declared:

"The US imperialists were inflicted very heavy blows and humiliating setbacks by the Vietnamese people, but they are still plotting to step up their war of aggression. They have been whipping up a noisy propaganda about their "de-Americanization" or "Vietnamization" of the war in South Viet Nam, while continuing their spy and bombing flights against the North. They have been attempting to crush the Cuban revolution, intensifying their armed intervention in Laos and the Middle East, and supporting the Israeli aggressors against the Arab peoples.

"In Korea, they have been hatching the dark design to unleash a new war in which the Japanese militarists would side with them.

"The present international juncture requires that the revolutionary peoples of the three continents and the world over push up their struggle against imperialism and colonialism and spearhead their attack against US imperialism. More particularly, they should coordinate their actions to foil the US strategy aimed at gradually undermining the world revolution: only in this way will they succeed in winning total and final victory over US imperialism."

SURVEY OF U.S. NEO-COLONIALISM

(Continued from page 1)

Thus, economic expansion and counter-revolution, both on the world scale, are two closely interrelated policies. The strength of the socialist camp and that of the national liberation movement compel Washington to camouflage itself behind disguised forms of intervention, administration and domination, but the magnitude of its needs, the urgency of the situation, the fear of revolution make American imperialism more aggressive than any other imperialism, more ferocious and more perfidious. US neo-colonialism uses and abuses fine words — freedom, democracy, respect of man —, even speaks of revolution, sets up "national" governments, "parliaments," creates "trade unions," cultural services, but behind this facade, CIA agents, "Green Berets" engineer plots and assassinations, air and naval forces and airborne divisions are ready to operate landings, entire armoury of new weapons, chemical products are on the alert.

One cannot lay enough stress upon these components of American neo-colonialism: imperative economic necessity, aggressive counter-revolutionary character, ready use of most versatile means of action.

IMMEDIATELY after the end of the Second World War, Washington had thought it could mount a direct attack against the Soviet Union; a USA-Western Europe military coalition on the one hand, China under Chiang Kai-shek on the other, would encircle the Soviet Union. Only those under-developed countries which may become bases against the USSR commanded US attention. Greece, Turkey, and Iran then received a much bigger aid than India or Africa. The Middle East, land of petrol and strategic base against the socialist countries, constituted for the United States a key sector. The marines landed in Liban in 1958 and the Sixth Fleet patrolled round the clock in the Mediterranean.

Of course Latin America remained under the sway of US big companies which, in collusion with an oligarchy of latifundists and military juntas, maintained in this continent most backward socio-economic structures.

American policy became more aggressive. Intervention in Greece, the Middle East, China, Korea, Iran, Guatemala, help to France in the Indochina war, threat of "massive retaliation" against the socialist countries. In 1955, ten years after the end of the Second World War, encircling the socialist countries, a cordon of countries bound to the United States by a series of military pacts put at the Pentagon's disposal thousands of bases and huge armies of mercenaries. The NATO pact mustered 14 countries, that of Bagdad 5, that of SEATO 7, that of ANZUS 2, while the Organisation of American States bound by the Rio pact 20.

This policy only took a few years to go bankrupt. The socialist countries have consolidated themselves and keep increasing their economic and military strength, the atomic monopoly has been ended. A direct military clash with the socialist camp becomes now a risky venture in which the survival of the capitalist system would be at stake on a world scale.

At the same time, Asia, Africa and Latin America are in the throes of a national liberation and social movement more turbulent than ever. Day after day, the labouring classes, the workers and the peasants become aware of their own interests. The propertied classes are losing control of the direction of the national movements. In these conditions, national liberation seriously jeopardizes foreign imperialists' interests, those of the USA in particular; moreover, the problem of the path of development, capitalist or non capitalist, to be followed by these countries, is more acute than ever. That the countries of Asia, Africa, and Latin America once independent take to capitalism or socialism becomes a question of world importance. At the time when the existence of a socialist camp whose growing might determines the historical evolution of humanity and supplies a valuable aid to the newly-independent countries, when the popular classes of those countries acquire a deep political consciousness, when larger and larger social sections become alive to Marxism-Leninism, it is more likely that the Third World countries once independent rapidly embark on socialism. The imperialist world must prevent this evolution at any cost.

The threat of nuclear retaliation and military pacts could no longer curb the trend of the world revolution, still less hamper the rapid development of national liberation movements. It was John Kennedy, elected President in 1961, who mapped out for the USA a new orientation, a much more dynamic, more elaborate policy; the objectives remained the same but the ways and means of action greatly changed. Kennedy geared Washington's world strategy in two different directions.

First, one must continue to maintain maximum military pressure on the socialist countries, drive them to an "immobilism" in the international arena, without risking direct military clash, while trying to undermine the socialist regimes from within. Then the USA could carry out an active and dynamic policy toward the Third World regarded now as the revolutionary hotbed to be stamped out immediately. With Kennedy underdeveloped countries were raised to the rank of a trumpcard of American policy. Once these countries are subjugated or kept in the capitalist orbit, the socialist countries will be completely isolated, the world revolution will be driven to the defensive and imperialism will regain the initiative.

Kennedy set on foot a whole series of economic, political, military and ideological organs to implement this neo-colonialist policy which will be one of the major components of US world strategy. American neo-colonialism will then have a "doctrine" and means of action much more considerable than ever. These means will be considered next.

(To be continued)

Next article:

II — Economic Profile of US Neo-Colonialism

STORY OF A FARMING CO-OPERATIVE

(Concluded) *

POINTS AND WORK-DAY

WE found Hoang, a vice-manager of the co-op, at the CP of the village militia under his command.

A tall man, he wore a khaki coat, instead of a traditional brown pyjama, with the same friendly and hospitable smile of the Vietnamese peasant who makes you feel at ease from the first moment.

He was also in charge of the "record section" of the co-op, that is the management of man-power. It was in this capacity that he answered our questions, with a thoughtful look, on the organisation of work at Ngo Xuyen.

It was necessary to establish the norms of work, fix during meetings the amount and quality of work a member must get done in a day in given conditions. For example, a person of an average strength must plough 5 *sao* of land (1,800 sq.m.) in a day with a Model 51 plough and a buffalo of an average strength. The norm can be different if the work is done in winter or in more solid soil. That is rated a 10-point day.

Next, came the classification of work, always through extensive discussions, into several categories and the allotting of the number of points and work-days for each category. For instance, if one gets 10 points for a day of ploughing, one will be given 8 for a day of hoeing or weeding secondary food crops, a job which calls for less physical and technical efforts.

"I, rather we, we floundered a bit at first. We had not the least experience in the management of a co-op of this size. Of course, we got the directives from the top. But to assimilate them was one thing and to fend for oneselves on the terrain was another.

Moreover, not everybody had the same sense of responsibility in work.

The peasant was accustomed to his plot of land and worked his own way. Now a member of a collective undertaking, he has to work in a planned way, observe work discipline and shake off some habits.

The problem facing us was triple: to work out a table of points and work-days to remunerate each member according to the amount and quality of work done, to organise work and to dispense at the same time ideological education and inculcate a new mentality in the peasant.

The peasants are grouped in 5 production brigades, the basic organisations of the co-op. Each has at its disposal a given amount of land, work force, draught animals and farm implements. It must carry out the production plan established by the co-op.

Formerly, the farmers were given a number of points a day. As they were numerous they lost much time in waiting for one another before they could begin work. This system of remuneration by the day did not help either to increase the tempo of work or to improve its quality.

Now we use the piece-work system. Each brigade is allocated, along with means of production, production expenses at an amount fixed by contract and a so fixed number of work-days as wages. It must deliver a given tonnage of produce to the co-op. That is the system of "triple contract." If the brigade surpasses the production norm, it is entitled to a bonus equal to 80% of the surplus. If is does not attain it, it is penalized and must pay to the co-op 50% of the dead loss. It sets up groups of its own to which it assigns some jobs and attributes a fixed number of points. At the end of a day's work, the members of the group meet to distribute to each of them a certain number of points according to the amount and quality of work done.

The collective undertaking, while mustering so big a work force, has made possible a new division of work. First of all, within the co-op itself, new occupations have been created: stock-breeding fish rearing, vegetable and fruit tree growing, etc., which help increase the co-op's income and encourage specialisation of the farmers, and this soon entails the raising of productivity.

Thanks to the diversification of agriculture and, in the first place, the crop rotation, man-power can be used rationally throughout the whole year. This helps avert the tensions at harvest time and in prolonged slack seasons in the intermediary period.

Over recent years, the army has called up scores of youth, and 132 others have left the village for various public services and industrial enterprises. This is an indication of a new division of social labour which has begun on a nation-wide scale. It will help remedy under-employment of the labour potential in the Vietnamese countryside."

SHORT RECKONINGS MAKE LONG "CO-OPERATIVES"

NIGHT fell when we arrived at the house of Duc, the co-op's accountant. It is a neat 3-compartment house, the middle reserved to the ancestral altar. In the left wing where we worked, there were a bed, a table and several chairs. The millenary centre of the peasant life!

Yet, the man is new. Demobilised recently, he has retained from his year in the people's army a solid political consciousness and a good general knowledge. By lamplight, he acquainted us with the financial management at a co-op.

This management does not boil down to simple book-keeping or a cashier's work. It covers:

— the management of the revenues affecting both the development of production and the increase of the income of co-op members;

— the management of the expenditure and the distribution of revenues so as ensure a planned distribution of receipts, administer the co-op's funds and avoid corruption and waste;

— the management of the co-op's property;

— the strict implementation of government policies and regulations concerning the sale of farm products to the State prices, etc.;

— the control of the co-op's activities from the financial viewpoint.

The yearly financial plan is worked out alongside the production plan. At first, a draft is prepared by the Administration Committee and submitted to all members of the co-op for widespread discussion at meetings of production brigades. Taking account of suggestions and proposals, this Committee elaborates a plan and submits it to the conference of co-op farmers.

At the end of each month and each harvest, a statement of account is posted at the accounting office of the co-op. At the end of each year a financial balance-sheet is presented to the conference of co-op farmers and placarded so that the members can see it and exercise their control.

This open accounting has a democratic basis. It is a guarantee against corruption and waste.

The word "democracy" peppered our conversation. Democracy is not only at the bottom of the financial management. It is the golden rule of the general management of the co-op.

The constitution of the co-operative has not been a single administrative measure. The endorsement of the peasant masses is indispensable. Likewise, technical improvement does not partake of pure agronomy. The application of a new technique calls for patient efforts, a sustained struggle against ancestral habits. Everybody must be conscious of being the real master of the co-op, know his job and stand ready to work hard and accept necessary sacrifices. The peasant's consent can be obtained only through ideological work carried out along the mass line.

At the end of 1969, the enforcement of the new statutes of the agricultural co-op promulgated by the government further touched off a vast campaign for democratisation at Ngo Xuyen. In the light of the experience of the past decade, these simple and clearly worded regulations define the rights and obligations of the co-op farmers, the attributions of various organs of the co-op, the principles of management, etc.

The peasants grouped in the brigades studied a summary compiled by the Provincial Party Committee. They discussed the articles of the statutes one by one and a draft on internal rules for their implementation.

At these meetings, they revealed the shortcomings and weaknesses in the management of the co-op, that of the brigades and in the conduct of the co-op farmers themselves.

However, positive examples prevailed. Cadres and peasants distinguished themselves by their industry, abnegation and probity. Many a farmer, mindful of the common interest, made suggestions or sincere criticisms to the co-op leaders.

Taking everything into account, the assessment of the results of the 10 years of agricultural co-operation was promising. The sum-up made by the co-op chairman

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* *See* Vietnam Courier *from no 259.*

Tilling in a State farm

PLAF STRENGTH

By Mme **NGUYEN THI DINH**
Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the South Viet Nam PLAF

—Excerpts from a speech delivered at the commemorative meeting of the 9th anniversary of the merger of the PLAF — February 15, 1970 —

OUR country is going through an extremely bitter trial in which the survival of our nation and our country is at stake. No Vietnamese can help being happy at, proud of, and confident in, the growing political and military forces of the nation. We are all the more enthusiastic, proud and confident since we know with certainty that these forces of ours will develop still more quickly, more comprehensively and steadily to fulfil with still greater merit the historic mission entrusted them by the Fatherland: to fight side by side with the rest of the people and completely defeat US aggression.

OUR people's liberation armed forces draw their strength from the **tradition of indomitable struggle** of our Vietnamese nation forged through a glorious history of four thousand years of building and defending the country, the tradition of crushing any aggressor wherever he may come from and however cruel and truculent he may be.

The splendid victories in the past have been succeeded by the historic Dien Bien Phu and are certain to be followed up by still more resounding feats in the Ho Chi Minh era. In the past forty years under the leadership of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, the revolutionary tradition of our nation has blossomed more resplendently than ever because revolution has enabled the strength of our nation to develop most rapidly, all-sidedly and on the most crucial fronts. With that tradition our people defeated the French imperialists and the Japanese fascists; with that tradition we have confidently stood up to confront the Americans, have been inflicting reverses on them and will completely defeat them.

OUR people's armed forces derive their energy from the entirely **judicious political and military lines** of the National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam. Our line is based on an accurate appraisal of the situation and the tasks of the South Viet Nam revolution, and of the balance of forces between us and the enemy. It is skilful and imaginative application of the universal principles of revolution to the concrete conditions of Viet Nam. It is an original Vietnamese line, the political line and people's war line on a relatively small country with a relatively small population and an underdeveloped economy which, however, is applied with a very lucid leadership and a monolithic bloc of unity of the entire people, and which enjoys a staunch and ever stronger backing of the forces of democracy, peace and socialism of our time. Our line has made it possible to give full scope to the combined strength of the revolution and to mount continual offensives against the enemy, both militarily and politically, and in the three prongs (military operation, political action and agitation among enemy ranks—*Ed.*).

Our line of people's war has dictated **combat directives and methods very flexible and full of vitality**, based on the conviction that it is man with his high political consciousness that decides the outcome of a war. These line, directives and methods have enabled us to successfully pit a small force against a bigger one, a crack army against a heterogeneous force, fight persistently and continually tilt the balance of forces in our favour, win one success after another and make revolution advance by leaps and bounds. The Vietnamese line of people's war is prevailing over the line of aggressive war of the US imperialists. Our people's armed forces have foiled all of the most "up-to-date" strategies, tactics and techniques of the US imperialists which are a sum-up of the experiences of all the imperialists in the long history of their wars of aggression. As we fight on, our political and military lines become more inventive and effective. They have galvanized our people into facing up to the American imperialists and fighting effectively against them.

ANOTHER source of inspiration for our armed forces is the **sublime Vietnamese revolutionary heroism** which has been flourishing in all parts of the country. Armed with it our armed forces have become a steel army with officers and men inspired with a single purpose who are ready to make every sacrifice for the independence and freedom of the Fatherland, who are unreservedly loyal to the revolution and the people, who are always optimistic and confident in the final victory, closely bound together by a comradely affection, exemplary in implementing all policies and undertakings of their superiors, diplaying a high sense of self-reliance, giving full play to their abilities and fulfilling their tasks in all circumstances.

A further source of strength of our armed forces lies in the **glowing justice of our resistance** against US aggression, for national salvation. It has enlisted strong support from the socialist countries and sympathy and steady assistance from hundreds of millions of progressive people all over the world and in the United States. It has sown confusion among the enemy ranks, and incited large numbers of enemy troops to cross over to the people's side and tens of thousands of US troops to take anti-war actions in one form or another for the complete withdrawal of American troops from South Viet Nam.

The longer we fight, the more apparent becomes the just cause we are upholding and the more transparent, the inhuman, unjust character of the US aggressive war grow in the eyes of the world.

OUR armed forces also get their tremendous vigour from our **solid and valiant great rear, the North**. Under the leadership of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, the National Assembly, the DRVN Government and great President Ho Chi Minh, the 20 million Northern countrymen and fellow fighters have been doing everything in their power to assist the South. They have been displaying a high sense of self-denial and fighting day and night to build and defend socialism against the devastating actions of the US imperialists while giving the greatest help possible to the great frontline, the South.

At present, North and South are still temporarily separated by the cruel US imperialists and the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique of traitors, but never before have our people been so united, never before have the North and the South been bound so intimately as now. Never will the US aggressors be able to shake our people's determination to reunify the country.

A major source of strength that cements the North and the South is the **very person of the great President Ho Chi Minh**, the venerated Father of the nation, the most able and esteemed leader of our people as a whole. In his life-time, President Ho Chi Minh watched with great solicitude every step forward of the South Viet Nam revolution, every exploit of the People's Liberation Armed Forces. South Viet Nam was always in his heart and the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Forces received his constant guidance, stimulation and encouragement. His vibrant appeals resounded far and wide in our country and went deep into the heart of every officer and man of the Liberation Armed Forces and instilled in them boundless stamina to help them "fulfil any tasks assigned, overcome any difficulties and get the better of any enemy."

President Ho Chi Minh's last instructions epitomize his feelings, his will and his aspiration he wished to hand down to our entire army and people. They also represent the aspiration and will of the people throughout our country. Fired by such a marvellous might, the people's Liberation Armed Forces are resolved to learn from his revolutionary virtues and style of work and together with the entire people carry into effect his instruction: "We must fight on till the US aggressors quit and the puppets topple" and "So long as there is one aggressor left in our country, we must fight on to sweep him away."

ALL these sources of strength have provided the People's Liberation Armed Forces with absolute political and moral superiority over the enemy, enabled them to best any weapons of the US aggressors, grow quickly and steadily in all circumstances, fight bravely and accomplish electrifying exploits and prove worthy of being a "valiant brother" of the heroic Viet Nam People's Army, of being a heroic army of a heroic nation, of the confidence and pride of the entire Vietnamese people, of the expectation of our friends and progressive people in all continents.

AT present, the US imperialists and their henchmen are losing steadily. The aggressive war in Viet Nam has had for them disastrous political, military and economic consequences they themselves have never foreseen. They are irresistibly forced to de-escalate it. However, extremely stubborn by nature, they have not yet given up their dark aggressive design upon our country. They have been showering more hardware and toxic chemicals on our land, committing heinous crimes against our people. They have been carrying out piecemeal troop withdrawals to prolong the war, and trying to downgrade and eventually sabotage the four-party Paris Conference on

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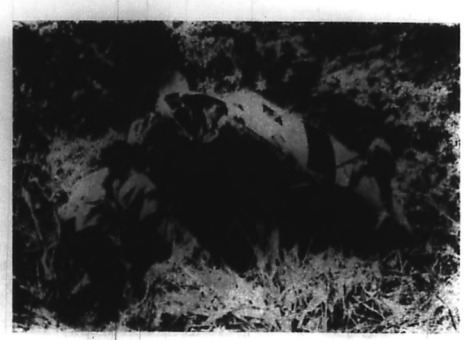

US chopper downed by Thua Thien guerillas

Commission for Denunciation of US War Crimes in South Viet Nam Exposes

NEW SON MYS AND AMERICAN DEVASTATION OF ENTIRE AREAS IN SOUTH VIET NAM

ON last March 12, *Giai Phong* Press Agency reported, the Commission for Denunciation of US-Puppet War Crimes in South Viet Nam released a communique on the occasion of the second anniversary of the Son My massacre in which, two years ago, over 500 victims most of them old people, women, children and babies, fell to US soldiery's guns.

The communique mentioned eight concrete cases taking place between October 1969 and January 1970 in various localities lying between the Da Nang area and Ca Mau cape, the southernmost part of Viet Nam. Though incomplete, this list supplies fresh evidence that the Son My massacre is far from being the single case of its kind.

In its next part, the communique listed six other cases in which the Americans and their henchmen had wrought havoc in large areas embracing each from 180 to 300 villages and covering scores of square kilometres.

Tae statement stressed that by its criminal actions the Nixon administration had shown itself a warlike one. It called the attention of world opinion to the fact that so long as the US war of aggression continued, the list of Son Mys would lengthen.

It ended with an appeal to the governments and the peoples of the world, to international and national organizations, to peace- and justice-loving people, to good-will people, to raise their voices and demand that the US government put an end to the war and the crimes against the South Vietnamese people and withdraw its troops totally and rapidly from South Viet Nam.

NEW SON MYS

(1) In October 1969, at Go Sui Quang Ngai province, 300 people were killed by bombing and poisoning at a concentration camp.

(2) In November 1969, 800 civilians were slaughtered in Thang Binh, Que Son and Duy Xuyen districts, Quang Nam province, in Operation "Sea-Tiger."

(3) On February 5, 1970, 50 people were massacred at Vinh Quang hamlet, Phuoc Son village, Binh Dinh province.

(4) From February 5 to 14, 1970, about 300 people were killed and others taken away in a sweep.

(5) On January 15 and 21, 1970, 36 people were killed or wounded during sweeps and by toxic chemicals sprayed since early this year.

(6) Since October 1969, at Khanh Lam village, Ca Mau province, thousands of people have been poisoned by toxic chemicals, nearly 300 people killed or wounded in sweeps and air-raids (34 B-52 raids).

(7) Since January 26, 1970, thousands of civilian casualties have been caused by toxic chemicals and many hamlets razed by repeated chemical sprayings and B-52 raids in Seven Mountains region, Chau Doc province.

(8) Ayung hamlet in Dac Lac province has been completely destroyed, its inhabitants mowed down during three sweeps launched since early this year.

WHOLE AREAS DEVASTATED

The Yanks and their puppets have completely razed:

— 300 out of 316 hamlets of Gio Linh and Cam Lo districts, Quang Tri province (A).

— Nearly 300 out of 487 hamlets in the districts north of Quang Nam province (B).

— 180 hamlets in the four districts of Hai Lang and Trieu Phong, Quang Tri province (C), and Phong Dien and Quang Dien, Thua Thien province (D).

— 18 villages with a 60,000 total population, of Cu Chi district, north-west of Saigon (E).

— Go Noi area (Quang Nam province), south of Da Nang (F) covering over 40 square kilometres.

— The areas along the Tra Khuc River, Quang Ngai province (G) and along the Vam Co Dong River, Long An province (H).

Mother and Daughter

NHU at last found the house in which her family was living. Her heart beat quicker as she stopped in front of it.

She listened and even was sure to hear the breathing of her mother and youngest brother Dzung.

Through a gap in the door she saw an old clock making its regular tick-tack and a cosy atmosphere which made one feel the cold outside more intensely.

Many a time Nhu wanted to call her mother up, but she hesitated for her father had often written to her that her mother worked usually on the night shift, a detail never mentioned by her mother. Maybe to-night she had come home in the small hours of morning. Nhu just went on waiting at the door.

She laid down her knapsack containing many gifts for her dear ones: toys for her brothers and sister, a carton of Tam Dao *cigarettes and a cigarette case made from a plane wreckage for her father, and for her mother two bottles "Ditakina" tonic and the most valuable of all: Uncle Ho's badge which she put in a corner of her knapsack, as a remembrance that she had always heeded her mother's advice to "work well in the army to keep pace with your girl friends."*

Nhu remembered the days of her childhood when her family was not so large and her father was away fighting the French without sending any word to his family, when her mother was toiling hard from dawn to dark to rear her four children. The sacrifice of her mother was silent but great, yet when her family met again after the re-establishment of peace, she complained to her father that apart from house work, she had not been able to do her bit in the Resistance. Nhu was proud of her mother's dedication and also of her regret.

In the army, Nhu loved her mother all the more. She was sorry her mother was no longer young enough to take part in the same activities as she did. The old woman had lived a life of misery and privations. Now as a daughter, Nhu should compensate those sufferings by living up to the hopes that her mother had placed in her, her brothers and sister.

These recollections now dim, now distinct about her mother, kept haunting her.

Birds warbled on flamboyant trees. No sunrays, only a silvery sky and the top of houses tinted in pink.

From the house, a noise was heard. The door creaked open. A brown-haired old boy, about five, wearing knee-breeches, a printed cotton-padded overcoat and red sandals, walked out. Nhu did not remember him and would not recognize him should she meet him in the street. She wanted to hug him and make him cry but checked herself.

The kiddy stopped far from her and gazed at her as if to say: "If you want something, come up." Nhu drew near, took him up in her trembling arms and hugged him, her eyes wet in tears. The kid did not know what was the matter with her. He wiped her tears with his little hands and said, "Don't cry, who bullies you? Don't cry, I'll tell Mother."

Nhu giggled and asked, "Is Mother asleep?"

"Yes, she is fast asleep," the boy said. "Yesterday, she came home very late in the night."

"Where are your brothers and sisters?"

"My sister Khanh and my brothers Viet, Tam, Kien, are at a dispersal centre. My sister Nhu, my big sister, is in the army like you."

So saying, the kid touched the golden star on Nhu's cap.

"Have you ever seen your sister?" Nhu asked.

The boy remained pensive for a while and shook his head.

Nhu felt a lump in her throat and pressed her cheek against him, saying, "I am Nhu!"

He seemed to have guessed it, so he fully trusted her words. He stroked her hair and said, "I'm going to wake up Mother right away!"

"Don't, don't. Let her sleep!" she prevented him.

They entered the room and sat by the opened pack.

Nhu gave two sweets to her brother who went to the bed where his mother was sleeping with the intention to give her one. He smiled when his sister showed him many bags of sweets in the sack.

Nhu stole near the bed. Her heart missed a beat when she saw her mother sleeping inside the mosquito-net. The wind which lightly swayed the net gave her a sweet recollection of bygone days.

Nhu stood by her mother for a long while. The old woman had not changed so much: the wrinkles on her face were so dear to the girl. Turning round, she saw that Dzung was also by her. "She was on the night shift," he said.

Dzung led his sister to the knapsack and began rummaging it. He pulled out a small parcel wrapped in white cloth and shouted: "Uncle Ho's effigy! Mother has got one like this too!"

"Mother has got one like this too!" she repeated the word, bewildered.

"Yes," the boy went on, "Uncle Ho awarded badges to Mother and

(Continued page 7)

INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT STRONGLY STIMULATES VIETNAMESE PEOPLE

ON the occasion of the Week of Solidarity with the Vietnamese people (March 13-19), Ton Quang Phiet, Chairman of the Viet Nam Asian - African Solidarity Committee, has written for the daily *Nhan Dan* an article voicing the Vietnamese people's deep gratitude to the people of the socialist countries and the rest of the world for their warm support to Viet Nam's legitimate resistance against the US aggressors.

Ton Quang Phiet said: "The just struggle of the Vietnamese people enjoys widespread sympathy and support from the world peoples. Today, it is safe to say that the whole progressive mankind is standing on our side. The front of the world peoples in support of Viet Nam, with the socialist camp and the working class as its core, is expanding vigorously. Never in the history of mankind has there been such large and deep-reaching support for a nation."

Ton Quang Phiet went on to thank the peoples of the socialist countries for their considerable and sustained aid — political, military and economic — for the Vietnamese to reinforce their national defence and economic potentials and step up their struggle against US aggression, for national salvation and the building of socialism.

He continued: "The Laotian and Cambodian peoples have been unceasingly increasing their solidarity with the Vietnamese people in the effort of the peoples of the Indochinese countries against the common enemy, the US imperialists. By their valiant struggle and their stubborn resistance to US aggression and sabotage, they have been lending a most helpful hand to the Vietnamese people.

"2,300 million Asians, Africans and Latin Americans are our close comrades-in-arms on the same front against imperialism and new and old type colonialism headed by the US imperialists. The high tide of the national liberation movement which is rising in diversified forms in the three continents is giving an effective support to the Vietnamese people's own action."

Ton Quang Phiet also highly praised the anti-US drive of the peoples in the countries allied to or dependent on the US like Japan, Thailand, the Philippines, Australia, New Zealand and the ever stronger protest in the European countries against American aggression in Viet Nam.

He welcomed with special warmth the anti-war movement in the United States which has drawn people of all strata including overseas Americans and GIs in South Viet Nam. He underlined that the Fall Offensive of the American people which climaxed on October 15 and November 15, 1969 had given a push to the world's support for Viet Nam.

Ton Quang Phiet continued:

"The extensive international support for Viet Nam found the clearest and most sincere expression in the profound sympathy expressed by the world peoples over the passing away of President Ho Chi Minh, our esteemed leader. Tens of thousands of messages were sent from the five continents to condole with the Vietnamese and express firm militant solidarity with them.

"The constant progress of the movement of the world's peoples against the aggression of the US imperialists and in support of Viet Nam is a great encouragement for the just struggle of our people. The Vietnamese people highly value such a support and consider it an important and indispensable factor of their complete victory over the US aggressors."

TO BACK VIET NAM IS NOW A MUST

— Excerpt from the Appeal made by the Permanent Secretariat of the Tricontinental Organization AALAPSO —

"FOR all kinds of base and barbarous manoeuvres of theirs, the US imperialists can neither cow such a heroic people as the Vietnamese who have been inflicting on them so many setbacks, nor get out of their present quagmire."

"In perpetrating these crimes, they only shed full light on their hideous and cruel nature, that of an international gendarme, of the enemy number one of the world's peoples.

"Sliding toward its doom, the predatory beast will certainly try frantically to wriggle out of its predicament. That is why, to back Viet Nam is now a must.

"The Permanent Secretariat of the Asian, African and Latin American Peoples' Solidarity Organization reiterated its staunch and unconditional support for the ten-point over-all solution of the South Viet Nam NFL and of the PRG of the RSVN, and the sensible four-point position of the DRVN government.

"It earnestly calls on the organization members of AALAPSO, national and international revolutionary organizations, progressive forces, all peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America, all peace- and justice-loving people in the world to work with might and main and devote all their revolutionary energy to morally and materially, positively and concretely support the DRVN Government and the entire Vietnamese people so that they can fulfil their historic task."

A stage in the Plain of Jars Battle: *a Lao Liberation Army unit overruns an enemy position*

News from LAOS

General SINGKAPO Says

The Plain of Jars Battle Was a Serious Setback of Nixon's Doctrine

IN a recent public address General Singkapo of the Plain of Jars — Xieng Khuang Front Command commented on the initial but serious setbacks of the Nixon doctrine on Asia through the battles in the Plain of Jars.

"Nixon's doctrine on Asia is but a renovation," General Singkapo said, *"of Maxwell Taylor's and Kennedy's 'special warfare' which has gone bankrupt in South Viet Nam. One may wonder whether Nixon and his aides want to pay dearer for their war ventures by choosing as a test ground for their 'new strategy' the jungled areas on Western Indochina where the population, with their 'placid' appearance, are endowed with a strength as incomprehensible to them as the 'mysteries' of the Asian jungles."*

He went on:

"In the encroaching operations on the Plain of Jars, the US fielded most of its 'special forces' and the great majority of the American 'Green Berets' and Thai mercenary troops in Laos. In terms of battalions, two-fifths of the rightist army's troop strength were thrown into the action. Meanwhile, the whole US war machine in Laos and the US 'special forces' command headquartered in Udorn (Thailand) were set in full motion.

"In this big war effort, the 'local force' — according to Nixon's definition in his doctrine — also included Thai mercenaries, American 'Green Berets' and 'special war' specialists masterminded the attack.

"As far as fire support is concerned, the ground fire was supplied by heavy artillery, armoured cars and tanks and the air power by all kinds of US war planes, from armed helicopters to B-52 stratofortresses. With such a deployment of forces, the frantic reaction of Washington to the fall of the Plain of Jars was no wonder. The US attempt to minimize its losses and their noisy smear campaign against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam was aimed at covering their very bitter reverse which marked the bankruptcy of Nixon's Asian theory, both militarily and politically. In fact, it was a failure of the US war policy not in Laos alone but also in the whole embattled Indochina, particularly in South Viet Nam where Nixon had been carrying out his 'Vietnamisation' policy."

"As for military tactics," General Singkapo went on, *"the US, relying on its superiority in mobile means, air and man power, wanted with a lightning strike to seize control on the key positions in the plain. To boost the low morale of the rightist troops, it established numerous heavily guarded clusters of strongholds. US aircraft even dropped concrete bunkers and armoured cars to build steel ramparts around the puppet positions. But they made a fatal mistake when underestimating the strength of the patriotic armed forces. Protected and assisted by the people, the latter, both the main force and guerillas, during this military operation, defied all privations to hold on to their bases right behind enemy lines, and in so doing pointed deadly daggers at the enemy's side without his knowledge. When the hour of the counter-offensive struck the enemy was caught completely off guard. It is interesting to note that when the patriotic armed forces had their weapons poised for action, enemy headquarters still conjectured that they were still on their way to the plain and Prince Souvanna Phouma affirmed his determination to defend the Plain of Jars at any cost."*

"The days of the US-fostered 'special forces' in Laos are numbered," General Singkapo concluded. *"Time is not on the colonialists' side. Nixon's 'new strategy' — like all those advocated by his predecessors — will come to a complete flop."*

Mother and Daughter

(Continued from page 5)

other people. She said that if I behaved well, Uncle would give one to me."

"Mother has received an Uncle Ho's badge." This gave Nhu food for thought. She must think of her mother from another angle. To back his statement, Dzung said, "It is now in father's medal case. I'll show it to you."

Nhu saw the badge together with an issue of the Nhan Dan *paper carrying the government decision awarding this distinction to her mother. Nhu could not go through the whole article, so surprised as she was at this reward.*

The paper article ran that her mother was a hospital hand entirely devoted to her patients; she had saved a wounded armyman in an air raid...

Dzung hurried Nhu up, "Put it again in the medal box, or Mother will scold me."

Nhu gave back the badge and made up her mind not to show hers.

While she was absorbed in such thoughts, her mother tossed over on her bed and called, "Dzung!"

Dzung rushed to the bed to tell his mother of Nhu's home coming, but the woman had already seen her and asked, "How long have you been here?"

"I've just arrived, Mother," Nhu said.

The mother looked intently at her from head to toe to make sure she was not dreaming.

"You come by the night train, perhaps you are hungry!"

Dzung struck in, "Yes, cook some vermicelli for my sister."

The mother looked affectionately at her two children and said to Dzung, "Who told you she is your sister?"

"She did."

Nhu was certain that until the time she left the house, she would not be told by her mother about the badge even though she showed her own one. Her mother wanted to keep it secret. The poor woman! She had suffered a lot of privations and hardships, yet she was shy speaking of herself.

Nhu peered at her mother's hoary head. She was very happy and understood that it was her mother who was giving her a pleasant surprise.

November 1969

PHAM DUC

STORY OF A FARMING CO-OPERATIVE

(Continued from page 3)

was warmly received by the conference of co-op farmers.

At Ngo Xuyen, the year 1970 began in an atmosphere of enthusiasm and confidence.

GRANDFATHER THICH'S TESTIMONY

GRANDFATHER Thich, an old man of 76, told us memories of his green years: "There were five of us, brothers and sisters, in the family. As far as I can remember, I knew only misery and misfortune. I was orphaned at 7. The village notables seized our house and the garden to get the money for our poll-tax. One day, people picked up the corpse of my eldest brother who died of starvation. My second brother died soon afterwards. My two sisters had to leave the village.

I myself followed suit at the age of 16. I rejoined one of my sisters, working at Dap Cau river port. Her own destitution did not allow her to come to my help. I had to go from city to city in search of a job. I was a docker at Haiphong, a waiter at a restaurant in Hanoi, a servant in a pagoda and a boy at a Frenchman's, etc. I failed in Lao Kay, a city bordering on China, where I lived by my wits in a gambling-den. It happened that for long days, I had only wild fruit in my stomach. One day the police arrested me in a corner of the city market. I was sent back to my native village where I lived as best as I could as a hired porter when the August Revolution erupted. I got a job as a liaison agent with the District Administration Committee. I did not even know my ABC. When I carried letters, to avoid errors, I put a sign mark on each envelop. During the Resistance, I offered my services to the village administration. At the time of land reform, I received 1.8 *sao* (552 sq.m) of land. Today the co-op is my family."

The case of old Thich is typical of an epoch full of misery and humiliation.

With agricultural co-operation, the peasant of Ngo Xuyen receives 200kg of paddy for himself annually, and an equal amount for each of the members of his family. To this, are added secondary food crops: sweet potatoes, potatoes, etc. If the worst is that a typhoon hits the province, his ration may be less but never will it fail him.

In the last 10 years, his standard of living has been improved little by little.

There are at Ngo Xuyen 230 dwellings, of them 106 brick houses covered with tiles, 97 others with thatched roof and 27 cob-walled houses. In front of each home is a paved yard and all around, a little garden. In the houses, there are wooden beds with mosquito-nets and blankets, wardrobes, tables, chairs and sometimes thermos flasks, transistor sets, bicycles— articles never seen in the peasant homes of yester-year.

Other things also unknown in the past are the four creches where the peasant mothers are sending their babies free of charge. One day we were surprised to see a toboggan installed in a garden of longan trees and hearing the children's babbling in a nearby brick house. An infant class was functioning in this house, the nicest in the village. At Ngo Xuyen two kindergartens are catering for 120 children. All children go to school. Three pre-school classes prepare them for the co-op's 1st degree general education school. The village runs a 2nd degree school while a 3rd degree school is opened there by the district. The peasants of Ngo Xuyen send their children to secondary technical schools after their leaving the 2nd degree general education schools. 18 young villagers even have been admitted to the university.

The health network at village level comprises an infirmary - maternity house. At Ngo Xuyen, a medical nurse looks after the health of the inhabitants. A sick peasant receives free medical care and can get medicines at State price. In case of labour accident, he is granted an allowance in kind. All women get pre-natal check-ups. They are entitled to maternity leave and an allowance in kind.

Sanitation has been given a great impetus. 200 curb-wells and 150 double sceptic tanks have been built. In the past 10 years, not a single epidemic has been reported.

The women make a real advance in society which US aggression can but accelerate, because it is they who replace men who join the army. They occupy 8 of the 15 seats in the co-op's Administration Committee.

A chief and 6 deputy-chiefs of brigades are women. 4 of the 8 village representatives on the People's Council are also women.

US aggression has been unable to hamper the progress of the co-op. From 1965 to 1969, the peasants of Ngo Xuyen delivered to the State 327 tons of paddy, 75 tons of potatoes, 19 tons of pea-nuts, 5 tons of cowage, 74 tons of vegetables, 35 tons of pork, etc. The war ordeal has brought to light the solidity of the co-op and the attachment of the peasant to collective farming.

Of course, much is still to be done to give the peasants of Ngo Xuyen a really modern agriculture. The scantiness of arable lands, the shortage of machines, will still be a great hindrance for years to come to the development of production.

Nevertheless, the trail has been blazed. In 10 years, the co-op has evidently demonstrated its superiority over individual farming.

It alone can mobilise the necessary forces for hydraulic planning. It is also a favourable ground for the application of new techniques. To the peasants of Ngo Xuyen, it has given the security of the morrow and a better material and cultural life. The anti-US resistance has brought all minds and hearts closer.

Nobody thinks of getting out of the co-op. People hold heated discussions on the methods of management and the good and bad points of this or that responsible official, but always with a view to improving collective farm work. To revert to individual farming is inconceivable. The co-operative movement has become irreversible.

TO THE READER

We are aware that there is much room for improvement in the wording of our paper. We apologize for this shortcoming and highly appreciate all your suggestions as they will help us to serve you more efficiently in future.

PLAF ACTIONS

from March 5 to 11, 1970

QUANG TRI PROVINCE: Two positions overrun, one battalion CP, one company and one unit of puppet militia wiped out in one night (Mar. 11).

BINH LONG PROVINCE: One company of the First Cav. decimated north-west of Loc Ninh (Mar. 6).

TAY NINH PROVINCE: 21 enemy aircraft downed, 45 armoured cars destroyed in five days (Mar. 6-10).

PHUOC LONG PROVINCE: 110 enemy casualties at Dac Um (Mar. 6-7).

MY THO PROVINCE: One company of the puppet 7th Division completely knocked out (Mar. 7).

KIEN TUONG PROVINCE: One puppet ranger company put out of action within 30 minutes in Tuyen Binh district (Mar. 5).

STRIKES IN SAIGON AND OTHER CITIES

FOLLOWING the victorious strike staged by 50,000 workers in January, many others broke out last month with similar results.

On Feb. 10 the workers of the Pacific construction firm downed tools in protest against the overbearing behaviour of the Yankees and resumed their work four days later after their employers had offered apologies. On the same day the workers of the American godown at Thu Duc went on strike, claiming for the wages stipulated in their contracts, and were given satisfaction in the afternoon. Four days later the same workers protested against their employers' scornful attitude toward them. The two above-mentioned actions were supported by 5,000 Saigon dockers who called a sympathy strike. On Feb. 16, at Vung Ro, north of Cam Ranh, employees of the RMK-BRJ firms struck against the ill-treatment they were victims of. The following day, force was used by the employers but the strikers did not give way though their representatives were in danger of assassination. On Feb. 23, the workers of the Visco soda-manufacturing company staged a go-slow strike against the domineering conduct of their American employers.

The four-day action (ending on Feb. 23) of 700 workers at the depot of the "Viet Nam Sugar Company" compelled the managers to abolish the system of contract overseers. The bus drivers' walk-out which ended on Feb. 10 forced the Saigon puppet authorities to hire again all the dismissed workers after the bidding for the contract for the management of the state-run bus company was over.

On Feb. 21, the employees of the South Korean ice-cream firm protested against arbitrary fines stopped from the wages of a number of workers and threatened with a strike.

The longest were the two actions carried out by the workers at the USAID organization and at the Saigon-Gia Dinh three-wheeled Lambretta van company. At the Feb. 12 meeting, the USAID workers demanded payment of a *Tet* bonus worth a month's wages and wage-lift for day-labourers. On Feb. 14 and 22 they reiterated their claims, denounced a new lay-off project of the Americans and warned them that a strike would be staged by all the workers in that organization should their demands not be met. The struggle put up by the Lambretta drivers for cancellation of drastic traffic regulations affecting their trade began on Feb. 18 in the form of a protest. On Feb. 25 they held an emergency meeting at the seat of the Saigon TU Federation and a second conference was planned to defend their vital interests.

Visage of an Anti-National Regime

MISS LEE'S TRADE IN SAIGON

Below is GERSTADIS' *story published by the Austrian paper* Volksstimme (*November 22, 1969*) — Ed.

THE press has published a letter from Saigon written by a US marine, which throws light on a particular facet of life in South Viet Nam: the legal yellow slave trade for the benefit of the occupation troops.

Girls are the only merchandise not to be found at PX's or Army stores. The GI, however, can obtain in Saigon, for 25 cents, a "practical guide" which lists the agencies "hiring girls for a week or a month." In addition, there is a list of bars (with the current prices of women) and even a full list of houses, hotels and camps where the GIs can "spend a few hours of relaxation in a pleasant atmosphere."

The author of the letter remarked not without sarcasm that "following a recent regulation of the military authorities, the price of a drink at these bars being up from 80 cents in 1967 to 2 dollars, the girls now ask for 5 dollars per hour, as the price of companionship." He was incensed by the fact that the military police "allow hotels to collect 15 dollars each night for a room" with "a single bed, hot water, a modest breakfast and a woman, not always young."

It is recalled in this connection that a Vietnamese soldier (of the puppet army-*Ed.*) earns 15 dollars monthly, or the 20-day wages of a Vietnamese workwoman.

According to the estimates given by the writer, John McCrimmon, in his book *Our Crimes There*, 34,000 girls, the youngest not more than 12, were officially registered at Police early in 1969. There still exist 60,000 non-officials working "with everybody's knowledge," and 204 agencies which recruit young girls from the provinces for the 21,000 bars, hotels and brothels in Saigon, often by means of violence and even rape. If those unfortunate girls resist, they are arrested as "suspects" and penned up in camps.

Although the girls work the whole week and earn more than 200 dollars a month, Mc Crimmon wrote, it is doubtful whether they can get 50 at the end of the month. According to conservative estimates, 4,000 Saigonese police agents and at least 1,500 officers of the South Viet Nam regime (puppet-*Ed.*), net each more than 400 dollars a month from the traffic in licences. "The author believes that a part of what has been told about the participation of thousands of Americans in this undertaking is quite true."

Some weeks ago, one of the anti-war papers in California published relevant explanations. In Saigon, a flourishing trade has made its appearance recently, that of "procurer of temporary wives." Ironically enough, the American military authorities maintain that these agents are contributing to "price stabilization." To vie with their bosses in hypocrisy, the members of the Thieu-Ky clique go to the length of affirming that these agents also contribute to the maintenance of morality.

The same Californian paper reported that the biggest English-language papers in Saigon had run advertisements which advised the GIs not to "squander their dollars in bars or on doubtful girls," but to "take temporary wives." The agency most efficient in this matter is that of Miss Lee, with this advertisement: "Do you want a friendly partner? If you seek a partner or simply a girl for friendly relations, don't forget that Miss Lee, 133 Cong Ly Street, provides you with beautiful, charming, high-class young ladies. PTT 20683, 08.00-19.00, including Sunday. Visit Mss Lee."

Don Derby, the paper's editor, has this to say after his visit, "The agency is installed in a grand villa surrounded by a garden, not far from the Tan Son Nhat base. Its appearance evokes the office of a big enterprise with a small 'computer,' card-index boxes and plenty of employés who inquire of you immediately in perfect English whether you want such or such a woman in provisional wedlock, for conversation or friendly partnership."

The business of Miss Lee—she is so proud of the telegrams of thanks from high American military officials and Vice-President Ky for her "great work"—deals with 3 merchandises of differing quality. After the customer has expressed his desire to have "a temporary wife" or a "friendly partner," he receives a catalogue and numerous "particulars" as well as the price list (60 dollars a month for the A class).

As reference, names and addresses of Americans who have been "served" are given below the photos.

Don Derby concluded, "Very few Americans turn down the services of this civilized prostitution. A Vietnamese woman of good morals does not like to go out for a walk or to go to the cinema together with an American, be he an officer. It is wrong to think that all the women of Saigon are the object of the love traffic. Thousands and thousands of them hide a weapon under their robe or in their house. They fight against a regime and a system that seeks to turn them into prostitutes."

(Translated from the German)

PLAF STRENGTH

(Continued from page 4)

Viet Nam. They have been trying by hook or by crook to "Vietnamize" the war, substituting Vietnamese blood for American blood in the hope of keeping neo-colonialism alive in South Viet Nam. At the same time, they have been setting in motion their huge machine of psychological warfare to distort truth, conceal their sinister designs and their setbacks, bolster up the morale of their men, deceive and placate American opinion and divide our army and people and shake our fighting.

Therefore, for our people, many more hardships and many more sacrifices lie ahead.

However, whatever the difficulties and privations, our people will certainly win complete victory. The US imperialists will surely have to quit our country. Our Fatherland will no doubt be reunified. Our people in the South and in the North will be inevitably united under the same roof. "Our country will have had the signal honour to be a small country having courageously fought and defeated two major imperialist powers which are France and the United States." These words of President Ho in his last message, our entire army and people are resolved to strive their utmost to translate them into reality.

At present, the US aggressors and their henchmen are making frantic efforts in their last-ditch battle. However, revolution is developing rapidly in a direction very favourable to us and very unfavourable to the enemy. Final victory is now nearer than ever before.